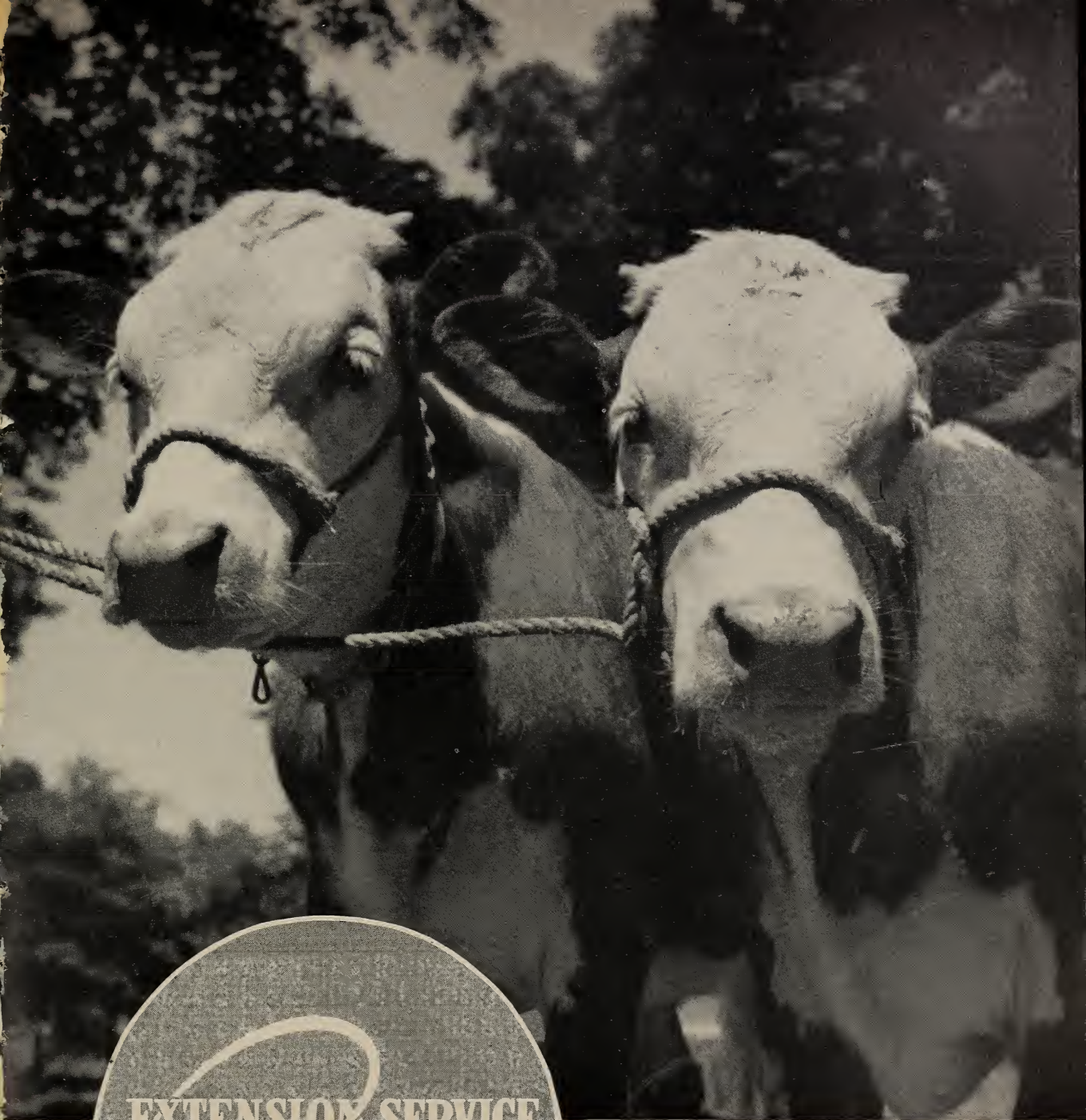


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EXTENSION SERVICE  
*Review*

*Can You Tell Us Apart?*

Story on Back Cover

AUGUST 1950



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● From a humble beginning 10 years ago, "*Actualidad Agricola*," Puerto Rico's daily farm and home radio program has grown in stature. Farmers and their families set their radio dial to their favorite station to get the latest agricultural and homemaking information. In the September issue, Nieves Diaz explains some of the techniques that have made the radio program so popular.

● "Build it Yourself," Georgia tells its Negro farm families, and then goes about showing them how to build and remodel homes and farm structures. Planning, implementation, and method demonstrations used at the second annual housing school held this year is explained next month.

● Today 4-H Club work is a growing organization in the Trust Territory of the Pacific. Club work began there during the war, expanded, and now there are more than 300 boys and girls who are enrolled as 4-H Club members and carry 4-H projects. As Director H. H. Warner of Hawaii says: "The Extension Service, through its work with boys and girls in 4-H Clubs is helping to implement President Truman's Point 4 program of aid to underdeveloped areas."

● Next month Lydia Fohn-Hansen takes you with her on a field trip along the Alaskan Highway. She will point out along the route some of the problems involved in an effective home demonstration program, and why it will take many women, many homes, and many seasons to subdue Alaska's millions of acres of wilderness, if ever it is to be conquered.

● Negro Extension Buildings Move Ahead in Mississippi, by Jack L. Flowers, a feature next month, tells of the progress that has been made in housing extension workers.

● For each television show, Eleanor Loomis, consumer marketing agent of the Minnesota Extension Service, has an audience of at least 50,000 people. That's one of the reasons why she believes that radio and television are perfect media for teaching good marketing practices. But she does not rely solely on them. She describes how consumer education is organized in the Twin Cities—Minneapolis and St. Paul.

EXTENSION SERVICE  
*Review*

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**T**HE field work of the agricultural engineering extension program in New York is conducted largely by 12 district extension agricultural engineers. Each district engineer is assigned to a group of from 4 to 6 counties, depending on the area and the type of agriculture. He maintains his headquarters and residence in his district. He is responsible to the department of agricultural engineering at the New York State College of Agriculture for his subject matter and teaching methods.

Local schedules and activities are arranged through close working relationship with the county extension agents in his district and the State extension office. Three of the four subject-matter specialists, including the project leader, who are stationed in the department of agricultural engineering devote a high proportion of their time to preparing material, planning new work, and working with the district engineers in the field.

This organization of extension work presents a responsibility to both the extension and the resident members of the department of agricultural engineering to maintain an in-service training program that is adequate to keep the district engineers informed about new developments and practices with which they should be acquainted. Another phase of in-service training is the on-the-job training of new men preparatory to going into a

# In-Service Training for Extension Agricultural Engineers

PAUL R. HOFF, Extension Agricultural Engineer, New York

district. This latter is accomplished satisfactorily by allowing a new engineer to spend 4 to 6 weeks working with several of the experienced engineers, plus a generous amount of help from specialists for a few weeks after he goes into his district.

In-service training is accomplished by a series of conferences of 3 to 5 days duration each. Four to six a year are usually called. During 1949 five training meetings were held. The first, held during May in a muck-land section of the State, was a review of various phases of farm drainage. The second conference, also held in May, was used to give the district engineers instruction in radio presentation and news writing. The department of extension teaching and information at the New York State College of Agriculture gave the in-

struction and furnished educational material for this conference.

The annual extension conference was the third in-service training school of the year. The fourth conference, held in June, was to bring the men up to date on the newer types of field pick-up hay balers and forage harvesters. Manufacturers' representatives were on hand to give instruction in adjustment and field operation. The final training of the year reviewed refrigerated apple storages, dairy-barn construction, and heating equipment for large brooder and broiler houses.

## Irrigation Practices

Of necessity, the training conferences must be brief and to the point. The subject matter covered is chosen usually from requests made by the district engineers and is organized to be applicable to the problems which they encounter. Presentation is based on the assumption of a good agricultural engineering foundation on the part of the district engineers. Instructors are drawn from whatever sources will give the best results. During the spring of 1950 the engineers were brought in for a 3-day course in irrigation practices. Instructors for this school came from a variety of sources. The agricultural engineering department furnished several, and the departments of agricultural economics, vegetable crops, and pomology also furnished instructors. The Geological Survey and the Soil Conservation Service contributed instructors, as did several manufacturers of irrigation equipment.

*(Continued on page 143)*



At a training conference for New York district extension agricultural engineers manufacturer's representative demonstrates field adjustments of a new model pick-up hay baler.



# Moniteau County Beckons to High School Girls

LILLIAN WESTMEYER  
Home Demonstration Agent  
Moniteau County, Mo.

**T**HEY went to a tea—40 high school girls—many for the first time. For days the questions at school were: What shall we wear? How do we act? Do I have to wear a hat and gloves? But in spite of their doubts they wanted to go and did—all 40 of them.

It was the third annual tea sponsored by the home economics extension clubs of Moniteau County for high school and senior girls, held at California, Mo., on April 11.

The girls came from all four of the high schools in California, Tipton, Jamestown, and Clarksburg. The first year, only the home economics students were invited, but for the last 2 years all of the senior girls were asked to come.

Upon arrival the high school seniors were greeted by the decoration and reception committee, and each was presented with a lapel ornament of plastic measuring spoons tied with plastic ribbons. They were also given a copy of the University of Missouri booklet, *You Too Can Be a Home Demonstration Agent*.

## To Interest Girls

The dual purpose of the tea is to interest girls in home economics careers and, at the same time, to observe National Home Demonstration Week. It was held several weeks in advance of Home Demonstration Week to avoid conflicts with end-of-the-year school activities.

A candlelighting ceremony, recognizing the five extension clubs organized in the past year, was part of the program. Mrs. D. W. Clay, president of the county council, wrote the script and directed the ceremony. Others taking part were Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, foods and nutrition instructor, University of Missouri; the presidents of



Tea was served by Mrs. D. W. Clay, president of Moniteau County Council of Extension Clubs (back to camera) and Mrs. H. P. Stonner, vice president of the council.

the two clubs instrumental in organizing the new clubs, the presidents of the five new clubs, and I as their county home demonstration agent. An exhibit depicting the theme, *Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World*, was set up in a prominent place.

The girls, as well as the women, were much interested in what Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, the speaker, had to tell them. Mrs. Lewis selected as her topic "Careers in Home Economics" and pointed out that there are more than 100 different jobs opened to girls trained in this field. She emphasized that there was no better training for life than home economics for either a career girl or a homemaker.

The Vaughn sisters, Charlene and Imogene, accompanied by Mrs. Nellie Monogan, entertained with vocal selections; and Mrs. Luther Higgins entertained at the piano as tea was being served.

When the afternoon was over all

the girls knew much more about opportunities in home economics; they had a better understanding of the home demonstration program of the Extension Service; and, lastly, they will have no doubts about attending a tea in the future.

● Home demonstration clubwomen of El Paso County, Colo., have embarked on a study of mental hygiene which has opened a whole new line of thinking. They began with musical therapy, stressing music, crafts, dramatics, and recreation. The program will continue through 1950 among groups especially interested. Other phases of mental hygiene will be considered by clubwomen throughout the county at monthly council meetings. They are also making a study of cancer, heart disease, and rheumatic fever and are investigating the relationship between dental problems, soil conservation, and nutrition.



# Direct Cable Solves Broadcasting Problem

AL BOND, Extension Radio Specialist, Washington

**A** MILE of salt water between the county seat and the county's only radio station hasn't stopped the extension staff of Kitsap County, Wash., from doing a bang-up job of farm broadcasting.

It's really 10 miles as the jalopy flies from the county agent's office in Port Orchard to Radio Station KBRO in Bremerton. The two towns are on opposite sides of Sinclair Inlet in Puget Sound. But County Agent Dino R. Sivo, the management of the radio station, and the county commissioners have demonstrated Old Man Euclid's theorem that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

The radio station has installed and maintains a telephone cable from the main studio to the county extension office. When the county courthouse was remodeled the commissioners built an acoustically designed broadcasting studio in the county agent's office; and Agent Sivo tapped his budget for \$300 to buy the three necessary microphones, radio preamplifier, and a wire recorder to use for farm-recorded interviews. The equipment can also be used as a public address system.

The extension staff presents a 15-minute "show" three times a week at 12:30 p. m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays beamed at the farm homes of Kitsap County. If any program deserves more than 15 minutes, the station permits the agents to encroach on the following 15 minutes of recorded music. Tuesday's program is usually devoted to agriculture, Thursday's to home economics, and Saturday's to 4-H Club work. Associate Agent Marcelone B. Wiley and Assistant Agents Harold Poor, Jr., and Leonard H. Otto all participate in the programs along with County Agent Sivo. Visiting specialists are "pressed" into service, either "live" or "recorded" as their schedules dictate. Program responsibilities usually are planned in 2-month blocks.

The whole thing started early in

1948 following a suggestion made by Sivo at an extension radio-press training meeting. The Bremerton station had opened in May of the previous year. Both the station management and the County Extension Service realized the importance of a radio service to farm families, but the difficulties of the 10-mile trek had them stymied.

Sivo suggested the possibility of the telephone line to his office. The station management agreed to this expense, and Sivo dug into his budget for the equipment.

The programs frequently cover more than one subject to add variety. In addition to the subject-matter information, the agents operate a "farm calendar" on each broadcast to call attention to farm meetings. They restrict these calendar items to farm or home "business meetings." They rule out social gatherings for fear they will be snowed under with requests. One device they use as a time

saver is to answer on the air typical requests for information that have been received by mail during the week.

This is one answer that Sivo gives to the perennial question, "Doesn't radio take too much time from your regular work?" Using this trick and other time savers, the Kitsap County Extension staff usually takes only a half to three-quarters of an hour to prepare a program, much of which is broadcast from notes without a written script. Of course, when a farm or home recording is used, that takes more time. But usually it is tied in with a regular farm visit or farm meeting, so the time can't be entirely charged to the radio program.

The radio station management and the farm people of the county are well pleased with the arrangement.

Jack H. Rogers, general manager of Radio Station KBRO, Bremerton, has this to say on the public service

*(Continued on page 143)*



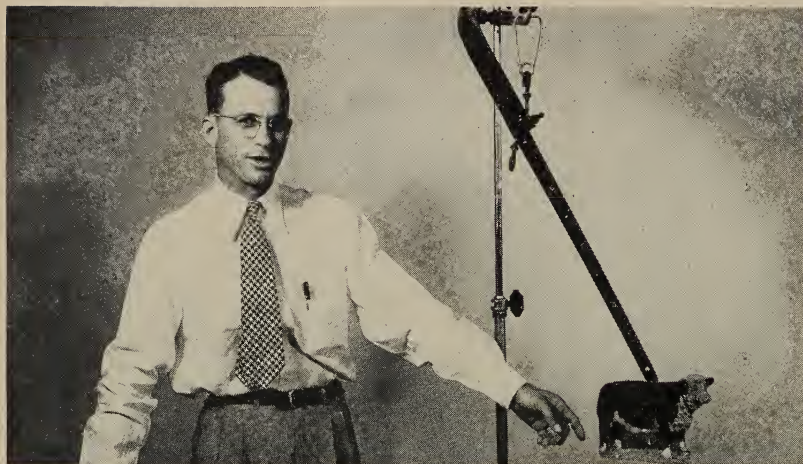
Assistant County Agent Harold Poor, Jr., takes to the air. Also shown is some of the equipment purchased by the Kitsap County Extension Service as their part of the cooperative broadcasts.



# Here's a Simple Gadget That Tells a Story

UEL D. THOMPSON

Assistant Animal Husbandman  
Texas



A PAIR of cotton scales, 6 cigar boxes, and 11 hook and eye screws make it easy for me to encourage better livestock feeding in Texas.

In the first place, when an animal husbandman carries a pair of cotton scales around with him and starts off a discussion of balanced feeding with them, the audience wants to see what is coming next.

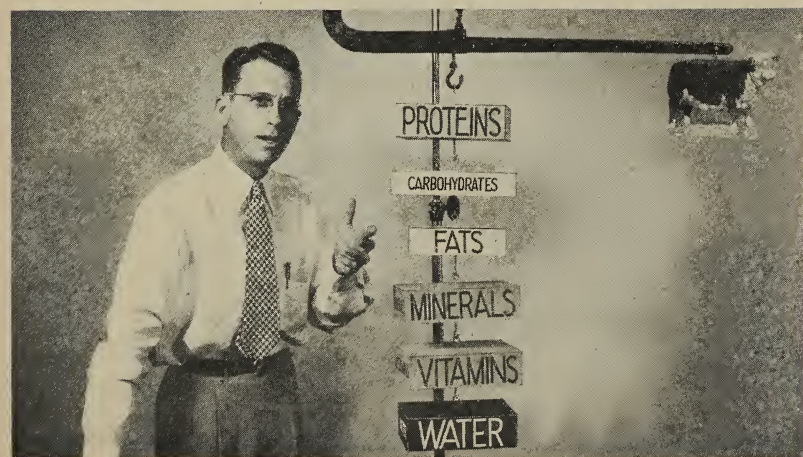
The scales are first suspended from whatever is feasible and the picture of the calf suspended on the end of the beam. This gives a downhill appearance and emphasizes that livestock feeding is a downhill enterprise unless certain practices are followed.

The first box, proteins, is placed on the scale; and a discussion follows of the place of proteins in the feeding program—those feeds, either home-grown or purchased, which supply protein, and what protein does in the animal's body. In Texas, we are encouraging a grazing program to furnish this important nutrient.

Each box is labeled—carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, and water—and as each is suspended from the scale the subject is discussed as thoroughly as necessary for that particular area of the State or as fully as time permits.

Each time a box is hung, the beam rises a little. When the last box is put into place the scales balance.

This device may be used equally well under a shade tree on the farm or ranch, in an auditorium, or in the county courtroom. I have used it with 4-H Club boys, with adults, and in county agricultural agents' district meetings. Teaching a balanced feeding program is a rather technical and difficult job. This aid has assisted me to get across an old story in a different way.





# Alice Oliver Retires

MAY M. CRESSWELL

State Home Demonstration Agent, Mississippi

**A**LICE CARTER OLIVER, district agent in charge of Negro home demonstration work, 1917 to 1950, is retiring this year. She was the first Negro home demonstration agent in Mississippi. Her first salary was \$1 per year, and her first task was to organize groups of women and girls to study better homemaking practices in Coahoma County. This was in 1917. Less than a year later, Alice was placed in charge of organizing home demonstration work for Negro women and girls in the counties of northwest Mississippi. Her work was so successful there that, as provision was made for the expansion of extension work, Alice was named district agent in charge of Negro home demonstration work in Mississippi.

On March 1, 1946, when the number of counties employing Negro home demonstration agents had grown to 50, the second district agent was appointed. This district agent, Daisy M. Lewis, was given supervision of half the counties; and, like other Mississippi home demonstration agents, she had been selected and trained by Alice Carter Oliver.

The career of Alice Carter Oliver in extension work has been unique and her service outstanding. She was born in Frankfort, Ky., in 1887, the youngest child of Mose and Lucy Carter. She attended Greenhill public school in Frankfort and Kentucky State College. Later she took advance courses at Cheyney Training School in Pennsylvania and at the University of Illinois. Alice taught for 6 years in the schools of Frankfort, coming to Sunflower County in 1910 where she engaged in social service work with the Negro people at Stephenville. In 1911 she married George H. Oliver, superintendent of Negro schools in Clarksdale. For a while Alice served as supervisor of home economics under the Jeanes Fund and for several years taught in the Negro schools of Clarksdale.

George and Alice Oliver were highly respected by both white people and Negroes in the county and the surrounding Delta. They were leaders among the Negroes and had the confidence of the white citizens of that area. Having observed the work of white home demonstration agents and realizing that her own people might improve their living conditions through work of this kind, Alice Carter, in 1917, applied to the director of extension, E. R. Lloyd, through Susie V. Powell, State home demonstration agent, for permission to organize groups of rural Negro women and girls in agricultural and homemaking projects. Alice's first compensation was \$1 per year, with the use of the franking privilege. Her first groups were organized in Coahoma County.

She found that the white planters readily understood the needs of the Negro families and, for the most part, were in sympathy with her efforts. Near the end of her first year, Alice's efficient service was recognized. She was given a salary and the title of district agent in charge of Negro home demonstration work. Her district consisted of 17 counties in north Mississippi.

Alice visited boards of supervisors and told them of her work and of the needs of her people. In many instances she was able to convince them that the services of a Negro home demonstration agent would be a valuable asset to the county. When asked how she, an unknown Negro worker, managed to get an audience with these boards, Alice said: "Many times I got in through the front door of the board room by seeing a supervisor's wife or some other influential white lady at the back door. Sometimes she would put on her hat and go with me to meet the board."

When Alice accepted the dollar-a-year job in 1917, she was the lone Negro home demonstration agent in

Mississippi. This year, as she now retires, there are full-time Negro home demonstration agents in 54 counties, working with 21,121 4-H Club girls and as many adult women. These women and girls are striving to improve their homes and the family's standard of living through the adoption of better practices in homemaking, gardening, poultry raising, and marketing. They are learning the importance of sanitation, of healthful living, and of good family and community and race relationships. Most of the 54 home demonstration agents are college graduates, trained in home economics. Some of the older ones who do not have their degrees have, nevertheless, had special training courses in home economics and are strengthened by years of successful work in the field and under the supervision of Alice Carter Oliver.

Alice's health has failed now so that she must live quietly, giving up the hard travel schedules which took her into the highways and byways of Mississippi. She retires with the respect and affection not only of all the Negro extension workers but of the entire extension staff who know her and have seen her work. Her work has been so outstanding that often she was called on to go to other States to tell about the progress of Negro extension work in her State. Alice will be missed, but she leaves behind her a sound organization and a staff of trained conscientious workers who have the interest of the Negro people at heart.

In a farewell letter to the State office, Alice expresses her gratitude and her affection for her white coworkers in the Extension Service. She writes: "It has been a privilege to work with you, and I shall always be grateful for the kindness you have shown me and the support you have given me in my work." "Please, Ma'm," Alice adds, "call on me if I can ever be of service in any way."

Alice's retirement marks the close of a useful career. She served with humility but with dignity at all times. Her life has been an inspiration to thousands of her own race and to us, her coworkers who have watched her tireless efforts, her enthusiasm, and her loyalty to her people and to her work.





● **CONSTANCE JOSEPHINE BONSLAGEL**, State home demonstration agent in Arkansas since 1919, died Sunday, May 21, from cerebral hemorrhage. She had worked as usual the week previous. Before 1919, she served as home agent in Mississippi.

Editorials in newspapers throughout the State of Arkansas paid tribute to her service, not only to Arkansas but to the Nation.

Commented the Arkansas Democrat: "Her fine achievements for our rural people, from which we all gain, are a measure of the State's loss in her death. She stressed equally the economic and cultural needs of rural life in a rounded, vital program, and she brought rare gifts to her work . . . She had faith in people, believing that tomorrow can be better than today. In Miss Bonslagel's passing, death reveals to us how great a soul a human body can house."

Many honors were conferred upon Miss Bonslagel throughout her 33 years of service in Extension. She was the first State home demonstration agent to receive the U. S. Department of Agriculture award for superior service in 1948. During 1947 she was cited by the Southern Agricultural Workers' Association for distinguished service to southern agriculture. In 1940, she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Progressive Farmer.

In 1928 she was sent to Europe to study agricultural conditions in six European countries.

Miss Bonslagel was born and reared in Mississippi. She was a graduate of Mississippi State College for Women and had done graduate work at Peabody College for Teachers, Columbia University, and Tulane University.

● Some of the color slides which won international recognition for **DR. GEORGE F. JOHNSON** of Pennsylvania State College were shown recently in New York City upon invitation of the New York Color Slide Club as one of its series of "prize slide programs."

Seventeen of Johnson's most popular 2 x 2's in pictorial and nature salons were lent for this purpose.

One of the 20 leading salon exhibitors in America, as listed in "Who's Who in Color Slide Photography," Johnson has had 53 color slides accepted in 21 international exhibits during the present season. These include exhibits in London, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D. C.

● **ROBERT P. TRASK** of Cambridge, Mass., the Nation's first county 4-H club agent, died April 15 in the New England Medical Center in Boston.

Mr. Trask began 4-H work in 1915 as club agent in Hampden County, Mass., later transferring to a similar position in Middlesex County. For 12 years he was secretary and general manager of the Topsfield Fair and served as superintendent of the 4-H dairy show at the Eastern States Exposition for 10 years. At the time of his death, Mr. Trask was director of the Division of Plant Pest Control and Fairs of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.

## Housing Clinics

During June a 1-day farm housing clinic was held in each of eight counties in North Dakota as a supplement to individual services provided in the counties by county and home demonstration agents.

A farm engineer and a home management specialist were on hand at each meeting, and farm families planning housing improvements were given special assistance. County extension agents were in charge of the meetings.

● On May 31 **CECILE GEBHART**, home economics extension representative in Lycoming County, Pa., closed her desk after a successful career of

# About

26 years. Miss Gebhart developed the educational program in Lycoming County and in the nearby counties of Clinton, Tioga, Potter, and Cameron. Since 1936, she has worked exclusively in Lycoming County. Under her guidance, homemakers throughout the counties adopted many new practices that improved their home-making and family living.

Miss Gebhart has returned to her home near Hart, Mich., where she helps her brother in their fruit business. Later she hopes to go into interior decorating work.

● At the sixty-first annual commencement of Salem College, West Virginia, **RUSSELL H. GIST**, State agent of West Virginia Extension, was honored with a degree of doctor of agricultural science. This recognition of an extension worker by a non-land-grant college is a tribute to the work done by Gist.

● **IVA MAE GROSS**, assistant State 4-H Club leader in New York, left for Germany in June to help with the organization of a 4-H program for older girls in the Wurttemberg-Baden province.

● **ARMINE W. WALDROP** became home adviser in Los Angeles County, Calif., in June, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of **LOUISA DOWNIE**. Miss Waldrop received her master's degree in home economics from the University of Arizona this year and her bachelor's degree in 1936 from the University of Illinois. Among the positions she has held is that of home adviser in Illinois.

● **DEAN AND DIRECTOR H. P. RUSK** of Illinois was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of science by the University of Missouri in June. Last year he received an honorary doctor's degree from Purdue University.



# People...



## Weather Kept Agents on the Jump

Nature's pranks in North Dakota this year kept the Extension Service and many of its agents in 51 counties on the jump. Snow, blizzards, blocked roads, and livestock feed problems were responsible for many emergency activities by extension workers this year, reports Director Haslerud.

The Extension Service teamed up with the Red Cross and National Guard in helping to relieve trouble brought on by unseasonable snow, flooded streams, fouled-up highway and rail transportation, and livestock feed shortages as late as May. County extension agents in their counties and the State Extension staff assembled information from farm families on assistance needed, located sources of livestock feed, arranged for transportation, and provided technical information on feeding and management.

Earlier, during the winter, the feeding of balanced livestock rations was accomplished. Farmers who put the suggestions into practice say their breeding stock came through the winter in better shape. Building up of larger livestock feed reserves on farms in the form of silage and hay supplies seems to be good insurance, says the director.

## Plan Farm-to-Market Roads

A farm-to-market road plan for Big Horn County, Wyo., has been completed with 14 local committees composed of 60 men elected by people in their respective communities.

Arvil D. Ashment, Big Horn County agent, said that committeemen will prepare maps showing present land use, soil types, present road systems, and recommended future road systems. Estimates of crop and live-

stock production and tonnage hauled will be made. In addition, farmers and ranchers in each community will be listed.

When the maps are completed, they will be returned to the county agent to be drafted into master maps.

The Bureau of Public Roads, Wyoming State Highway Department, and the Board of County Commissioners of Big Horn County are supporting the program.

## Extension Progress Parades

More than 10,000 people, among them business and civic leaders, Congressmen, and national press and radio representatives, thrilled to the gigantic spectacle of some seventy-odd floats that dramatized the excellent extension service in Nash County, N. C. As the throng jammed the short, main street of Nashville, on May 22, there unfolded before them a saga of modern rural life.

Attractive, well-planned, colorful floats that at once held the aura of carnival gaiety and at the same time displayed the skill of the modern farm and up-to-date farm home, depicted such milestones in agriculture and home economics as convenient kitchens, landscaped homes, balanced farming, child care, recreation for young folks, and many other phases of farm life in the twentieth century.

County Agent M. E. Hollowell gave a running explanation as the parade passed the reviewing stand. He and his two assistants, the home demonstration agent and her two assistants, as well as Home Demonstration Agent Effie Vines Gordon, retired, should take a bow. The legislators, governors, agricultural leaders, newspaper and radio representatives, and other guests, who attended the premiere performance of "Waves of Green" in the evening, will long remember the

big things being done by the up-and-coming rural people of Nash County, N. C. As Director Wilson remarked, no one could witness the parade without knowing that a mighty good Extension Service had been at work down there for a good many years.

The impact of the event might be summed up in the words of Frank Jeter, North Carolina's extension editor: "It was one of the most dramatic presentations that I have ever seen in a small community."

● DR. FRANKLIN S. HARRIS, president-emeritus of Utah State Agricultural College, and Hoyt Turner left by plane the middle of July for Iran, where they will work on problems of agricultural improvement in connection with the United States programs of technical cooperation. Both men have had varied foreign agricultural experience. Dr. Harris has a first-hand knowledge of the agriculture of Japan, China, India, Greece, and countries of the Middle East. From 1921 to 1945, he was president of Brigham Young University, and for the 10 years preceding was professor of agronomy and director of the State agricultural experiment station. Mr. Turner, former head of the department of food preservation at the University of Georgia, recently returned from Ecuador where, under the auspices of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, he assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in strengthening rural agriculture.







## Tested by Experience

**T**HIS bulletin display rack developed through years of experience in building and improving such racks contributes a great deal to convenience and efficiency in our office.

My first bulletin rack was in the office in Sheboygan County, built with the help of a carpenter back in 1925. It worked so well that we built another with some refinements which served us well until 1942, when I moved to Eau Claire County. There two were built which proved equally satisfactory. The rack shown above is one of three in my present office.

The first ones were built with shelves instead of drawers for the storage of surplus bulletins. The drawers are much more satisfactory. The two outstanding and unusual features are the slight slope of the pockets for the bulletins and the narrow strips of plate glass used to not only hold the bulletins in place but to permit readily seeing the titles.

Although not a part of the rack, I still have a device which has been used on all the racks to put in the numerous L-head screws. This is simply a bolt of the proper size, cut off and filed to fit into my automatic screw driver. With a hacksaw I cut a slot cornerwise in the head of the bolt, and it's almost a pleasure to spin the L-head screws into place.

We find the metal handles or drawer pulls more convenient than the wood type. The space at the top of the rack is provided for cards to indicate the kind of bulletin or circulars below.—*S. S. Mathisen, county agricultural agent, Milwaukee, Wis.*

# Agent's Professional Improvement Passed on to the People

**C**OUNTY Agent Irvin B. Perry returned to his job in Cortland County, N. Y., following the 1949-50 fall semester at Cornell University convinced that his sabbatic leave had offered a real opportunity, the benefits of which he hopes ultimately to pass along to the people themselves. First, he says he gained up-to-date additional information that can be integrated into his extension work; and secondly, he feels that in view of his studies he can evaluate the program he has carried on for the last 19 years and make adjustments where needed.

Agent Perry's decision to take a complete course in housing was based on an intimate understanding of the housing problem in rural areas. Farm families rarely build or remodel homes more than once during a generation, he points out, adding that he believes they need more help than has ever been available to them. He wanted to be in a position to render what service he could when called upon.

During the fall term the course dealt with the essentials of housing, covered the whole broad field, and emphasized its social aspects. Next, followed a course in farm structures which, Agent Perry says, gave him a better understanding of the engineering problems involved in erecting satisfactory farm structures. Later he attended classes in rural social problems and public policy which took up the operation of Government agencies and their attempt to meet rural social needs.

Generally, Mr. Perry says, the farm home receives less attention than other farm buildings. It is only natural, he points out, that the farm buildings which contribute to the cash income should receive first attention. However, he says, it seems that there should be some correlation between the type of buildings farmers and farm workers live in and their general attitude toward their business or work, the satisfactions they get from their

vocation, their efficiency as farmers, and the effect on them as citizens.

Agent Perry, with a realistic view to improving the housing situation in Cortland County, has already undertaken steps to put into practice what he studied and learned at Cornell. He has tackled the problem of housing of the dairy farm labor forces. With a committee established for the purpose, 5 towns were selected and surveyed. Housing conditions on 54 farms and 81 houses or apartments in which hired workers lived were recorded. Agent Perry believes that this will give him a solid foundation from which to build an effective housing program in his county. Later on, he hopes to use the results of the survey as a basis for his thesis in getting a master's degree.

In a report to Director L. R. Simons, Mr. Perry wrote: "I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to take sabbatic leave and do some real studying. I feel that it was an opportunity for professional and personal improvement that I can pass along to the people in terms of better servicing their needs."

## Featuring Drainage

Tile drainage for land improvement hit a new high in Venango County, Pa., in 1948; and indications are that farmers may set another record this year, according to the county agricultural agent, E. G. Ifft.

Last year 70 farmers in 16 townships installed 192,076 feet of tile to drain wet spots on their farms. Sixteen of the 70 were among 36 farmers who had put in 115,205 feet of tile in 1947. The total for the 2 years, 307,281 feet, or 58.2 miles, is the equivalent of the distance from Franklin down the Allegheny River to Kittanning.

Draining wet spots enables farmers to reclaim fertile land for cultivated crops or permits earlier spring work in the fields and the planting of



longer-season crops. They are finding from experience, Ifft states, that the cost of the ditching and tile installation is being defrayed fully in from 1 to 3 years from increased crop yields.

The biggest boon to the work is traction ditchers, which open trenches 10 to 12 inches wide and up to 5 feet deep and at a rate, under favorable conditions, of a half mile a day. The county agent assists both the farmers and the ditcher operators, who are doing custom work in addition to taking care of their own farms, by helping them locate the source of seeps, in making the drainage layouts, pooling orders for tile in carload lots, and in installation of the tile.

Some of the ditches are draining land never before ditched; others supplement drains installed 50 or 75 years ago. All the old drains were put in by hand, a method no longer feasible because of high labor costs. Because good land drainage enhances the appearance and value of their land, farmers regard it as an important conservation program.

## Photography as a Hobby

A hobby that helps his work is what Russell S. Anderson, associate county agricultural agent of Hartford County, Conn., spends most of his leisure time playing around with. Photography, chosen a number of years ago because it could be learned without respect to the weather and could be used at his convenience, has proved to be a valuable aid for his educational work with farmers.

Anderson is building up a file on technical subjects. One series is on management practices which will result in greener pastures and higher-quality hay crops; another is on diseases and results of malnutrition in vegetable plants.

He has also taken many color pictures of 4-H activities and is especially interested in doing character studies. He won first prize in a New York Herald Tribune contest for a study of a farmer sharpening his scythe, and a photo of a postmaster sorting mail brought him honorable mention in a photographic contest. Many of his pictures of Connecticut farm scenes were used in Odell Shep-

ard's book, *Connecticut, Past and Present*, as well as in school textbooks and encyclopedias.

For portraits, Anderson uses a 4 by 5 camera which he finally decided on as the best all-around one for black-and-whites. For color slides of vegetables, hayfields, and the like, he

uses a camera owned by the Hartford County Farm Bureau. He develops his own film, using pyro-metal developer.

On some days when he's busy with his camera, it may be that Russ doesn't know whether he's working or playing!

## 4-H Members Hear Secretary Snyder



Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder (center) paid tribute to 4-H Club work.

A LARGE audience sat enthralled as the program of the Fifth Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet of Craighead County, Ark., unfolded before them on May 29. Enthusiastically the audience applauded as 4-H members who had distinguished themselves in their project work were presented with awards by Mrs. George Booker, acting home demonstration agent; John M. Cavender, county agent; and his assistant, William O. Butler.

Secretary John W. Snyder of the U. S. Treasury, who delivered the principal address of the evening, paid a sterling tribute to 4-H Club members in particular and to the Cooperative Extension Service in general. "Surely no finer program has ever been devised than that being carried

forward by 4-H Clubs," Secretary Snyder said. In commenting on the benefits of the 4-H organization he said: "... the Nation has been greatly strengthened through its accomplishments."

Secretary Snyder, who is a native of Jonesboro, Ark., paid a handsome tribute to extension work when he said: "The Cooperative Farm Extension Program in which 4-H Clubs are affiliated has been an important factor in bringing the farms of eastern Arkansas to their present fine production. County, State, and Federal Governments have joined forces, here and all over the country, to help farm people with their problems—to teach them the values of conservation, crop rotation, and livestock improvement."

# Agents Get What They Want

**H**ALF of the field staff of the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service have a definite interest in graduate study. This interest in graduate training is not confined to younger staff members, as 31 of the 80 agents definitely interested have been employed by Extension for more than 10 years. Twenty-four agents would like to start their graduate work before July 1, 1950, so that they could take advantage of the G. I. bill.

They won't get it quite that soon, but in the fall the new graduate major in agricultural extension will be offered at Michigan State College.

The course will be flexible and, in most cases, tailored to fit the needs of the individual. Study under the major would include courses in two or more fields of study, such as technical agriculture, social science, techniques of communication, and agricultural extension.

The survey which led to this new development was conducted by John T. Stone, Michigan specialist in charge of extension teaching courses. It brought returns from 105 of the 194 county extension workers.

More than 4 out of 5 agents answering the inquiry want a general graduate major that permits them to take a wide selection of courses in a number of different departments. Only 11 indicated that they preferred to specialize in 1 or 2 fields of interest.

Stone remarks that this reflects the nature of county extension work. "Farm and community problems are constantly changing, and they involve not only an understanding of the broad science of agriculture or home economics but of people and national affairs," he commented.

High on the list of courses chosen by extension agents as those they would like to take included those in agriculture and home economics, social science, journalism, news writing, radio, and public speaking.

"Interest and a recognized need for graduate study is one thing, but as the agents so clearly point out in this survey the problem of actually taking the necessary time away from their jobs is not easily solved," Stone pointed out.

As a partial solution to this problem, 84 agents said they would like to take 4 credits of graduate work per term if provisions could be made for them to take some of their graduate work while on the job. If organized evening classes could be offered at several locations over the State for extension workers, some felt it would be possible for more to continue their academic training.

Because of the many problems involved in taking full-time graduate study for credit toward a master's degree but with an interest in im-

proving their professional competence, some agents proposed an alternative. This would be a "certificate of academic accomplishment" to those agents who earn 20 to 24 graduate credits. It would fill the need, they thought, of those agents interested in a chance to learn more about their job and with a desire to have their increased efficiency recognized in promotion and salary adjustments.

The agents listed (1) increase in salary, (2) relief workers to carry on the job while they are doing graduate study, (3) provisions for scholarships, and (4) leave of absence with pay as the primary incentives the administration could provide to encourage graduate study by field staff members.

## Big Plans Afoot

**T**HERE'S something cooking in London where Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Iowa (left), president of the Associated Country Women of the World, recently discussed plans for the Triennial Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 9-16, 1950. At the receiving end is Mrs. Mary Grigs Messer, home editor of the London "Farmer," whom many extension workers will remember on her visit to this country 7 years ago.

Few visitors have covered more ground or made more friends in their travels than Mary Grigs, the charming and earnest exponent of English

journalism. After her return she married the editor of her paper and now has a little daughter. She is taking an active part in planning for the conference in which some 250 American women, more than half of them representing State home demonstration councils, will participate.

The four Danish women's organizations playing the part of hostess for the conference have sent a warm welcome to prospective delegates. Their Majesties Queen Ingrid and Queen Alexandrine have accepted the role of conference patronesses. Four tours of various lengths and costs have been organized for the American women. They will leave on the S. S. *Washington* August 23 from the port of New York.





# Have you read...



**SOME SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN.** Nina Ridenour, Ph. D. Isabel Johnson National Mental Health Foundation, Inc. 1949. 72 pp.

- The present-day concern of mental health is again emphasizing the crucial importance of the early years of childhood in the formation of wholesome and happy personalities and the development of responsible citizenship. At the same time, this very emphasis has added to the confusion of parents who are earnestly seeking guidance in helping their little folk grow up as emotionally healthy people. They can welcome such helpful publications as "Some Special Problems of Children, Aged 2 to 5 Years," which pulls together in one pamphlet eight leaflets which have proved useful since their publication in 1947. The topics are: When a Child Hurts Other Children, When a Child Is Destructive, When a Child Uses Bad Language, When a Child Won't Share, When a Child Still Sucks His Thumb, When a Child Still Wets, When a Child Masturbates, and When a Child Has Fears. These are vital and everyday problems of normal children with which most parents are concerned.

The pamphlet will help them understand the causes of such behavior and find sound ways of correcting them as well as the behavior.—*Mrs. Lydia Ann Lynde, extension specialist in parent education, U. S. D. A.*

**HOW TO MAKE YOUR FARM PAY.** Carl C. Malone, farm management specialist, Iowa State College. Iowa State College Press. 371 pp.

- A book on the practical problems of managing a farm for profit, it deals with farming in the Midwest.

The 13 chapters deal with problems of farming in the Midwest, from "who should farm" to "looking ahead round the family table." Many operating and management problems are clearly presented and the principles that should be taken into account in their

solution. Necessary considerations to the development of complete farm plans for the short and long runs are properly woven in sequence as the farm family would logically think them through.

The book is written primarily for farm operators in easily understood language. It will prove of equal value to county agricultural agents, vocational agricultural teachers, college teachers, professional farm managers, credit agency representatives, and other people working with farmers. This is one of the best books on practical farm management that I have seen.—*Luke M. Schruben, extension economist, North Central States.*

## Selected Rural Fiction in 1949

*Compiled by Caroline Sherman,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics*

**HUNTER'S HORN.** Harriette Arnow. Macmillan Company, New York. 508 pp.

Can claim a place among the best rural fiction. It is intensely regional, but the author invests it with universality partly by her ability to take people as they are. It has vivid storytelling, fast but strictly rural incident, vibrant localization, animated and very real characters, insight and humor and compassion, and excellent writing and word painting. The setting is deep in the southern Appalachians, and the time is in the 1930's.

**WEST OF THE HILL.** Gladys Carroll Hasty. Macmillan Company, New York. 248 pp.

Possibly this book is next in value to *As the Earth Turns*, on Mrs. Carroll's shelf of rural novels. Story is of the awakening of an unlearned girl and of a backward and isolated community in Maine, a generation ago,

but it has clear implications for today as to the power of good and the necessity for brotherhood. Wholesome and sincere but not otherwise exceptional.

**THE PRIMITIVE.** Feike Feikema. Doubleday Co., New York. 460 pp.

First in a projected robust trilogy which is to carry a young contemporary giant of rural Iowa through the struggles of developing mind and manhood. This volume covers his stumbling but revealing years at a small midwestern college. Rather rough stuff, and prolix and undisciplined in writing, but the book has power and drive, like Feikema's earlier, *This Is the Year*.

**HOUND-DOG MAN.** Fred Gipson. Harper & Brothers, New York. 247 pp.

Worth while as a genuine and diverting relief from pressures of the times. Footloose, irresponsible, and fun-loving, Texan to the core, this man is a Pied Piper for restless boys and hunting hounds. But he does not limit his adventures to them as he roams his native swamps and hamlets, for party-gatherings and home-cooked dinners draw him like magnets.

**THE WAY WEST.** A. B. Guthrie. William Sloane Associates, New York. 340 pp.

Taken together with *The Big Sky* (by same author in 1947), we have a very human saga of broad sweep and effective writing that carries our western country through the eras of the untamed hunting and trapping mountain men and then the great trek to Oregon. If followed by others of the historical chain, they should not be missed.

**ROWAN HEAD.** Elizabeth Guthrie. Whittlesey House (McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.), New York. 301 pp.

Dramatic tale of suspense and intensity that is conditioned by its isolated setting on a noble headland of the Maine coast and a fanatical devotion to all the headland has stood for. But shipbuilding and the forest rather than farming support the leading family and the neighborhood. The story has romantic invention and a strong sense of place rather than typicality or interpretation.



# Science Flashes



What's in the offing on scientific research, as seen by Ernest G. Moore  
Agricultural Research Administration

## Elusive Vitamin C

Ascorbic acid is a temperamental vitamin. It decreases in peas as they increase in size. In experimental plots the Surprise variety had a higher ascorbic acid content than Wasatch. High nitrogen applications reduced the ascorbic acid content of Marglobe tomatoes but had no effect on the Earliana variety. Apparently the reduction was caused by the more luxuriant foliage which shaded the fruit. Adding manganese sulfate to the soil had no effect whatever on the ascorbic acid content of peas, tomatoes, or rye plants.

## New Seed-Cotton Cleaner

A new device for removing trash from seed cotton is the answer of research to the problem of increased trash resulting from mechanical harvesting. Developed by the Batelle Memorial Institute under an RMA contract, the device consists of two concentric cylinders (one within the other). The cotton to be cleaned passes through the ring-shaped space

between the cylinders. In the cleaning operation, air from a number of small pressure jets entering through the outside cylinder blasts any foreign material from the locks of cotton, which are held by their own inertia until they begin to whirl. This process is repeated again and again. The dislodged trash is then skimmed off through the offset or skimmer lips. Our cotton ginning laboratory at Stoneville, Miss., will have responsibility for translating these new principles into practical use.

## Simpler and Cheaper

Whether an oil is more suitable for use in paints or in foods is determined by the iodine number of the oil. If the iodine number is high, the oil is better for paints; and if it is low, the oil is better for food uses. Heretofore, the iodine number has been determined by an expensive refractometer operated by a skilled technician. The equipment costs about \$2,000. The Production and Marketing Administration in cooperation with the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., in an RMA research project, has developed a hand refractometer for simple, rapid determination of the iodine number of flaxseed and soybean oils. It costs only about \$200 and requires no particular skill in operating it. Both the old and new devices give the measurement of oil quality in about 5 minutes. The new device will soon be available commercially.

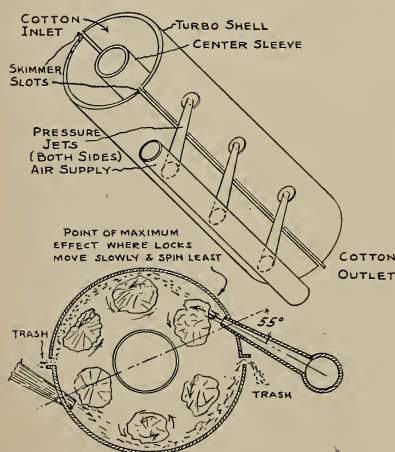
## Big Three in Pig-Chick Rations

A new and cheaper dietary supplement for pigs and chicks has been discovered in a combination of aureomycin (one of the new medical antibiotics), vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, and another new compound derived from phenylarsonic acid. Chicks at 6 weeks of age had

gained at the rate of 0.36 pound for each pound of feed consumed when fed an experimental diet containing these substances. A sampling of records over the last 10 years showed these chicks had gained faster and more efficiently than chicks of the same strain in any other experiment and with any other diet. The importance of the discovery hinges on the fact that pigs and chicks cannot fully utilize the cheaper and more abundant vegetable proteins such as soybean and cottonseed meal like cattle and other ruminants. Therefore, the high energy rations now fed pigs and chicks contain the more expensive animal proteins such as liver meal or fish meal. Our poultry people say much more work has to be done before feed formulas can be announced for use on farms.

## Jumping Hurdles

Disease control in crop plants is not the simple, seasonal sifting, or spraying of sure-fire fungicides that many people think it is. A disease-control chemical has to meet many standards besides killing the particular disease. Plants and seeds vary in how much chemical they can take, so there must be a margin of safety. We must know the effect on germination, and any adverse effect can't be very great. The chemical can't be too corrosive on machinery. It must not have injurious effects on people, and it can't even be very disagreeable to the operator. The chemical must spread well and be so fine as to stick tight to the seed without being sticky. Its composition must be stable. And last—but not least by a long shot—its final success depends on what the cost is per pound or pint. Just to show how patient people really are, though—more and more chemicals have come into use for seed and seedling protection.





## Home Recreation on Parade

Women of Warren County, Va., took top honors in the rural division of the Bing Crosby parade with a prize-winning float designed as a family recreation room. The parade was a special feature of Bing Crosby Day in Front Royal in April. The 30,000 people who lined the streets cheered and applauded as float after float hove into sight.

The Warren County float was a product of ingenuity and cooperation. Carpenters gave their time; a local contractor donated lumber; a lumber yard, the use of a truck; nails were gathered from here and there; and back of it all was the time, energy, and imagination of Mrs. H. J. Koester and her committee of the Front Royal home demonstration club.

### Recreation Theme

The float depicted a family recreation room with members of a family group engaged in recreational as well as useful activities. Pop and son were



refinishing a chair to be caned; Mom was working on a braided wool rug; little sister, seated on a hooked rug before the fireplace, was playing with her dolls; and Grandma was doing just what grandmas love to do, making a patchwork quilt.

The home demonstration colors, blue and white, were carried out in the apron of the float, with blue crepe paper strips over white sheets which formed the background. "The Home—the Fountainhead of Democracy," theme of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs,

was printed in blue and red on a strip of white shelf paper. Grandma's quilt was red and white; red, blue, and gray predominated in Mom's rug; and Pop, son, and little sister wore red jackets, which felt mighty good in the March winds that ushered in April. "Welcome, Bing" signs in red, white, and blue were placed over the doors of the cab.

As the floats were getting into parade formation, the Negro driver, who regularly operates the lumber yard truck, added the finishing touch—two American flags on the front bumpers.

## In-Service Training for Engineers

*(Continued from page 131)*

Because the district engineer is the authority on agricultural engineering in his district, the active in-service training program is absolutely necessary. He cannot specialize in his field as can a person engaged in teaching or research or as can be done by some extension specialists, but he must be familiar with developments in all phases of agricultural engineering almost as rapidly as they occur.

## Direct Cable Solves Broadcasting Problem

*(Continued from page 133)*

aspects of the agricultural program: "We at KBRO count this service to the rural residents of our listening area as one of the major public service accomplishments of the station. And the program not only has appeal

for a farm audience, but the home-making and gardening material used on the show are of such a nature that it has a broad appeal for the city dweller as well. The major task with such a program is to keep the level of enthusiasm at a high peak. If the extension agent's staff will put real effort into planning and presenting such a show, it can be of great value to the listeners as well as to the station and the agricultural program."

Wayne Blankenbiller, Kitsap County poultry breeder, says: "The program gives us the latest developments in agriculture without delay. It also gives a good medium for notification of meetings in which farmers are interested. I also believe the broadcast time is the best for most farm folks in our local vicinity. Other communities should take heed and follow the example of Kitsap County."

Mrs. R. W. Rickey of the Sheridan Heights Homemakers reports that

she is a regular listener to the extension programs. She says: "The broadcasts are a friendly visit from the Extension Service to our homes. These programs help to keep me informed of dates of coming events and programs, as well as helpful hints in better homemaking."

## County Officer Magazine Features Extension

The County Officer Magazine, house organ of the National Association of County Officials, with its feature on home demonstration work in July, completed a series of articles on the extension organization.

As the name implies, the association has a membership of some 5,500 local government officials, to whom the magazine is distributed. The January issue of the magazine featured an article entitled "Your County Extension Agents" and, in May, an illustrated article on 4-H Club work.





## *Even Our Mother Can't Tell Us Apart*

We, as IDENTICAL TWIN CALVES, and our buddies on the front cover are being used in nutrition studies at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., as an economy measure. They tell us that a vast saving of feed is evident when 2 calves can do the work in feeding tests that would otherwise require 40 calves.

Identical twins have the same inheritance and will, therefore, respond similarly to the same environmental conditions. For the same reason one twin may be fed a certain ration and the other one used as an ideal control. Differences thus obtained between identical twins are due to the conditions of the experiment, while differences between related or nonrelated calves on the same experiment may reflect differences in inheritance.

One pair of identical twins on the same experiment, with one used as a control, will, therefore, yield more authentic information than 20 less closely related pairs of calves. The Bureau of Animal Industry now has 7 pairs of identical twins, of which 6 pairs have already been started on feeding trials.